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Inaugural Essay

On

The use of Tobacco in Breachocks

by

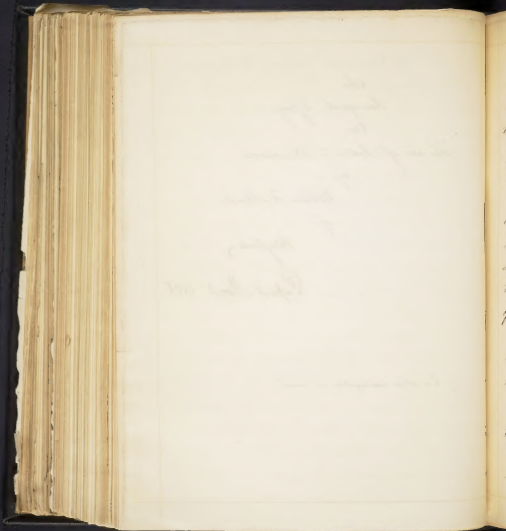
William F. Maclure

of

Virginia,

Printed March 1828

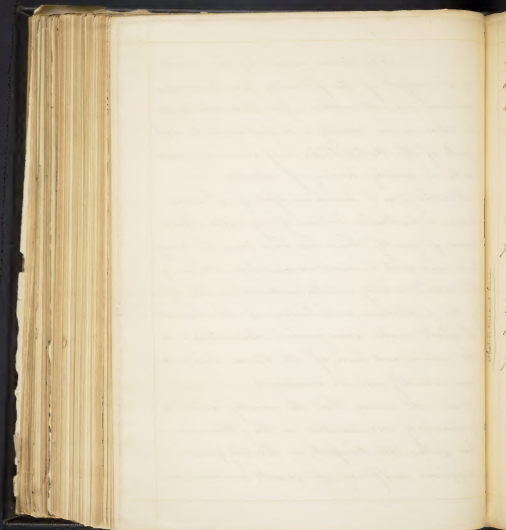
"Ea shon managutia ad man"



1
The disease, which has been selected
as the subject of the following essay, is one, whose
treatment has, until within a few years solicited lit-
tle notice in our Country, and fortunately in most
parts of the United States, is of so rare occurrence
as to be scarcely deserving of attention.

Nevertheless, as it becomes an object of Medical-
care in a particular section of any nation, State
more frequently than has been generally imag-
ined (and as its treatment is connected with one of
the most interesting articles contained in the office
of the practitioner or Laboratory of the Chemist)
I shall make some general observations as to
the nature and cause of the disease, and enter
more minutely into its treatment.

I am well aware, that the remedy which is
particularly recommended in the following pages
has fallen into disrepute in this City from
supposed inefficacy, yet so well am convinced

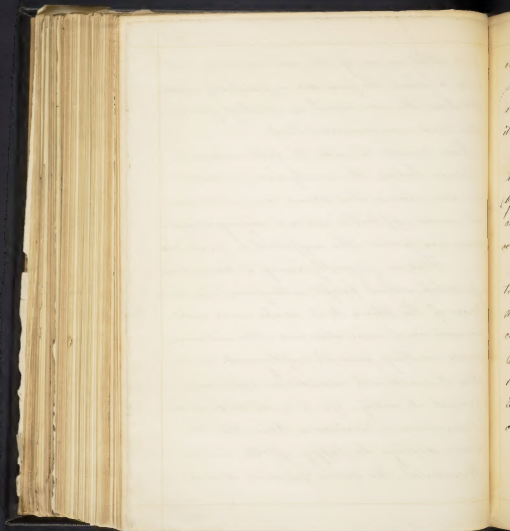


of its utility in one of the most ungainly mal-
adies to which the female sex is peculiarly exposed,
that I am the more urgent in soliciting for it—
other and more conclusive trials.

I am induced to make the latter remark—
because Iodine, the remedy here proposed,
has been used in other diseases, to which it has
not seemed applicable, and as a necessary consequen-
quence has proved either ineffectual or pernicious.

Thus, we frequently hear of its having been
prescribed without benefit, in Scrophula, Leucorrhoea, ^{of glandular} Cancer of the Uterus &c. &c. as also under certain
circumstances of imbecility and other wilcourse-
garnes resulting from its employment.

This I would call inconclusive testimony—
against its utility, for it is not in Scrophula
Leucorrhoea or Carcinoma Uteri that the
Iodine displays its happy effects, but in
Bronchitis, the disease for which it was—



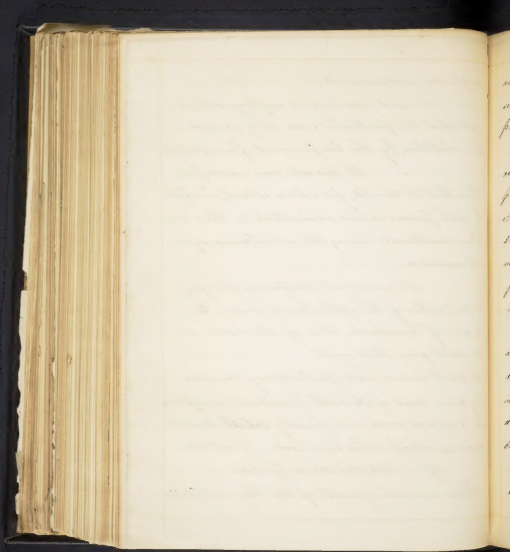
originally recommended (than to irritate the
 mucous membrane) and even here its employment is
 restricted to particular cases being governed in
 its exhibition, by the temperament of our patient.

It does not seem wonderful
 then, that it should, for a time at least, be chiefly
 (by such persons as have administered in the cases
 above mentioned) among the uncertain or equivocal
 remedies. —

It is my object therefore, in this essay
 to treat, rather of the application of Iodine, to
 the cure of Bronchitis, than of the disease so
 connected from that agent.

I shall however, as a preliminary measure —
 lay down some of its most prominent symptoms
 its supposed cause, and finally detail several
 cases in which it has been used. — First then
 of — Bronchitis or Croup.

This is an enlargement of the Thyroid Gland

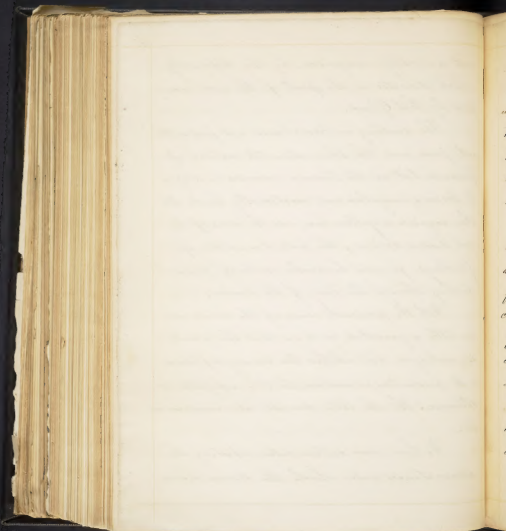


and is readily recognised, by the deformity which it creates in the part of the neck occupied by that Gland.

The swelling in Branchiæ is at first without pain and the skin retains its natural appearance but as the tumour increases in size - it becomes irregular and occasionally hard, the skin acquires a yellow hue, and the veins of the neck become varicose; the patient complains of flushings, frequent headaches as also of pains - darting through the body of the tumour.

With the proximate cause of the disease we are little acquainted; we know that the Gland is enlarged, but whether this has any influence in its production or continuance it is impossible to determine; the latter does not seem unnecessary.

We have more certain data respecting the circumstances under which the disease occurs.



We know it to be common to those living on our
 lofty mountains, as the Alps of Europe and
 Andes of America, as also among the more moun-
 tainous districts of our own Country as among the
 "Blue ridge" and Alleghany mountains of Virginia
 and I am told in similar situations in other
 Sections of the United States.

This disease has been confounded with Coler-
 icism, principally from male Science being such
 with under similar circumstances, as also from the
 fact, of the Colic being very subject to Brown
 blood. It seems to me however that to account
 for this we need only suppose that the Colic's
 constitution is so much debilitated by his disease
 as to render it very susceptible of being acted on
 by any agent capable of exciting the disease;
 which seems the more probable, when we reflect that
 women are more subject to the disease than men.

Edema and Colic seem to go hand in hand, whilst in



Be cause we find it not seem to resist efflu-
vid. We state my notions of the by which which
have been propagated to account for the disease more
than merely mention them. Some suppose it to be
produced by the use of melted snow - those by
the saline and earthy ingredients with which
water from the Mountains abounds.

The more reasonable still shew that
Hypothesis is that Moisture which is plentiful
about all mountains has no little influence in
generating the disease.

Having briefly noticed the disease, and
the supposed causes we shall proceed next to
its treatment.

Supposing the disease to have advanced so far as
not to admit of an operation which under the
most favourable circumstances is a doubtful and
even a hazardous practice we should resort to
constitutional remedies.



The medicine which some persons give, and a considerable share of modern confidence, is the sponge. History of which Professor Cheswain in his thesaurus speaks in very flattering terms.

"It (says he) constitutes at present, one of our chief remedies in Gonorrhoea, &c. which I must have undoubtably been effected by its long and steady use alone." From the efficacy of Bezoar Sponges in Bezoard's Colic of Geneva, soon after the discovery of Soda was led to suspect its existence in that substance, supposing its good effect to depend on the presence of the Soda.

He accordingly used it in solution, his expectations were more than realized in a short time immense tumours were dissolved, and hissing pining after rest finally, were restored to their primitive ease. Likest as if by the wound of a causticum. The same spread rapidly, immense quantities were consumed, and it served for a time to sustain



a disease, high regulation, but from a variety
of circumstances it was determined to ex-
perience a course of phlebotomy with as much inter-
val as was more suitable to the situation.

As we was inhibited in some of the steps by
movements of the pulse fatal were its effects when
indiscriminately employed.

I may here ask has not Charlatanism, by
doubt and opinion often occasioned death to be in
the hands of skillful Physicians, but in our
the present day pretends to call in question
their efficacy, when directed with judgement and
determination.

So with Iodine which was taken by the old
and young, the robust and debile without even
consulting a physician or attending to the small-
est degree to the rules laid down for its ad-
ministration. And yet we are told it has
produced evil consequences; Thus if we argue



most at all seems to be in favour of this medicine. There is sensibility in action agent in nature which is not capable of being converted to some useful purpose in the healing art.

"All medicines, says an author of eminence in large doses are poisons, and all poisons, in small doses are medicines."

We are told by Coindet that he has seldom failed with the Iodine where there was a prospect of success, and that he has never seen injury of course its use when prudently administered.

The action of this remedy is vigorous, it is ministered in large doses and continued for a considerable time "it (says Coindet) occasions emaciation of the whole frame and particularly of the mammae in females, a hectic and great anxiety, depression of spirits, Choler Morbus, nervous tremors and increased uterine action." It should not then of course be-



power to remove it is very resorted to in it.

My former preceptor, Dr. Douglass, says he has used it frequently, and has never but once, seen it followed by any unpleasant consequences; I am well convinced that they have occurred to others, not to him self perhaps from prudence in its administration.

In a letter which I received some short time since, he narrates several cases which occurred in his practice at the University of Virginia and which I shall subjoin to this essay. Speaking of the Iodine he observes, I may remark to you that in our disease especially the effect of the Iodine, seems to be as well established as that of any therapeutic agent whatever. Since I came to this country I have had several cases of Soft Bronchitis some of an extraordinary size and in all



the most marked benefit has been derived from the employment of the Sedative, also have I ever seen it followed by one of those unpleasant symptoms described by the Chinese physicians & others, with the exception of the diminished size of the mass, which in one instance seemed to arise from its exhalation.²²

The preparations which I have almost invariably used are the tincture and ointment recently prepared, for if kept long they readily undergo decomposition and this may account for the want of efficacy in some cases. Its effects & properties seem obscure and it is perhaps more injurious to admit ignorance than misled by hypothesis.

Thus much however is certain, if sufficiently long continued it occasions the disappearance of glandular enlargements, especially, and we are told, general emaciation; its action is evidently excited by the kind of performance of which we have so many instances



in the present manner, as the American System
 and so far as my experience goes on this they said and
 manuscript printed, &c. &c. &c. the few instances
 in which I have administered it in the practice
 of medicine I did not seem to have so beneficial
 effect. The reason for this undoubtedly was
 use to his edition of the treatise of anatomy,
 formerly printed in this country. I would also
 refer you to the works of Dr. Gardiner and Mason
 for the experience of others in that of the disease
 you will find an account of the unpleasant
 symptoms such to result from its use, and mention
 of the latter a series of remarkable cases in which
 it is clearly a failure. The abstract of cases will
 afford you a view regarding the use of it more
 frequently than, if it would not be better
 the cases of which is contained in manuscript in
 favour of those. It was much so much relieved,
 & without relief, it is thought, has been attended to.



and 17 improving under treatment.

Almost all the cases I have seen, since occurred in females."

Speaking of the time required in curative care, the Dr. used to say, at of course, much on individuals - from three weeks to as many months depending for the most part on the time of its continuance, its size, and consistence.

The small, large tumours of short duration and Sprung to ~~collected~~ feet were more easily dissolved, than small and hard ones which had a solid for a great while.

I am inclined to think that the use of the syce's attendance in use of the Syce is, in many instances, owing to the want of succour in the part of the practitioner, or that in in on that of the patient. It is necessary therefore, that we should strenuously explain our patient regularly in the use of his medicine, that the Syce may



be not completely under its influence.

Upon administering the Tonic, we should premise
cautions, either verbal or written - &c.

It seems to me that emetics should be preferred
as they undoubtedly answer the susceptibility
of the Stomach more than any other
medication.

Dr Richard White of Virginia
suggested to me whilst studying with him & in
during the last summer another application of
emetics in the disease viz if the Tonic had
been carried too far, he thought it probable
that an emetic would have an effect somewhat
similar to that which it exercises over profuse
satiation. He says he has very seldom failed
arousing satiation by an emetic of Spesshman
low - and thinks they would prove equally
beneficial in the case just alluded to.
Condit - says - about various effects of emetics.



we are to resort to the antispasmodics as Opium, Cast
 of ammonia, butyrum, stramonium &c. &c. as a last
 the patient should be put on a milk diet and
 sweetmeats. The medicine as only a fifty stramonium
 grs. The preparations of the Radix which Dr
 Boerhaave used were their first recommendation
 by Lindet. The Tincture is made by digesting
 grs. 81. VIII. of Radix in 3℥ of Alcohol. If this
 the Dose is $\frac{1}{2}$ gradually increased to xxv
 three times per day. The ointment was made
 in the proportions of Radix grs. xxx to hard Pur-
 ified 3℥. A piece the size of a nutmeg to be
 rubbed over the tumour night and morning.

An ointment of the Hydriodate of Potash as
 also a tincture of the same article have been
 used. I know nothing their utility from my
 own observation having never seen them employ-
 ed.

Thus concluded now all I have to say



on this subject. I am sensible to the liberality of
 your and others in this composition (originating in
 in part from the novelty of the subject) yet I
 submit it cheerfully to the sterner criticism
 as I do that they will readily overlook such immen-
 sities as have been unavoidable.

I will now subjoin the cases to which I had ref-
 erence without altering course or phrase.

First Case.

A negro woman from the county of Altham.
 named Sally. Aged 25. has had the disease six
 years. the tumour was the size of the two fists
 spreading on perineum when she commenced with
 the iodine in doses of grt & gradually increasing
 it to ʒ.ʒ. In two or three weeks the tumour
 became slightly painful and indurated, this
 pain gradually subsided in a few more days.
 it became flaccid and, in about six weeks



entirely disappeared.

Second Case

Mrs Wade from the county of Wootton Bassett
 aged 31 of good constitution and full habit - has
 had the disease ever since she was about 19 -
 She has never experienced any pain from this
 tumour; she commenced on one side and gradually
 extended over the whole front of the neck.
 This tumour also was soft when the Iodine was
 commenced, it became a little painful as she
 suffered from friction with the instrument; she
 had also slight headache in the morning - but on
 reducing the dose from grtss. to grs. and
 directing a saline cathartic - her head was relieved
 as also the pain in the tumour. She continued
 the Iodine internally and externally for
 six weeks without deriving any benefit - she
 was directed to spread some of the instrument
 on linen and ~~apply~~ keep it constantly applied.



the tumour became flaccid in about ten days - and in about three months from the time the medicine was first administered Mrs Wade - was perfectly cured.

Third Case

Dianna a negro woman from Rockingham age not known appeared to be about 50 - has a considerable tumour principally on the right side - said she did not know how long she had had the disease - it had given her some pain particularly in rainy weather. Her general health was good - she commenced with the Tonic in grt & v. gradually increased to twenty five three times per day. It was deemed imprudent to carry it beyond this as the Mammary - naturally flaccid suffered a sensible diminution. She was advised

by the medicine tho not cured she became impatient and it is thought may refuse taking it.

William J. Norlin.

